GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:308
ANSWERED ON:22.12.2004
MEDICAL TOURISM
Deshmukh Shri Subhash Sureshchandra

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Health Care Foundation has submitted a charter of demands for boosting medical tourism in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the reaction of the Government thereto;

(c) whether a recent mckinsay Company Study projected the sector to grow more than two-fold to account for 8.50 percent of the country's GDP by 2012; and

(d) if so, the details thereof alongwith the steps being taken to improve health care services in the country?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMADOSS)

(a)to(d): A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 308 FOR 22ND DECEMBER, 2004

A Task Force has been constituted on Health Tourism with a view to promoting India as a Health Destination to gainfully utilize the health expertise and infrastructure available in the country. The terms and reference include inter-alia recommending of specific types of health facilities inclusive of super specialty medical care, outsourcing of medical services and action to be taken for promoting India as a health destination. The Task Force has amongst its members, representatives from other concerned Ministries, State Governments, Federation of Indian Chambers of Commerce & Industry, Confederation of Indian Industries and reputed private and public hospitals. Members have made a number of suggestions which inclue, inter alia, standardization of hospitals, need to work out different promotional packages for different geographical zones, facilitate expeditious issues of visas, need to integrate traditional systems of medicine facilities into various tourism packages, granting of land and other facilities at concessional rates by State Governments etc.

Health care in India: The Road Ahead − a report by Confederation of Indian Industry − McKinsey and Company examining alternate scenarios has projected that healthcare market could touch 6.2 − 8.5% of GDP by 2012.

Health being a State subject, State Governments are primarily responsible for providing health facilities to the people. To provide better medical facilities, a vast network of rural infrastructure has been created in the country. The Central Government is also assisting the States under the National Health Programmes for Control of Malaria,T.B., Blindness, Leprosy, AIDS, Cancer, Iodine Deficiency Disorders, Mental Health and Family Welfare Programmes. To provide quality health care services, State Health System projects are also being implemented with World Bank assistance in selected states to upgrade health infrastructure. The efforts made in providing health services have had a definite impact both on the reach and the quality of health care system and delivery to the public. National Health Programmes undertaken are being closely monitored and mid-course corrections effected where necessary. Special efforts are also made to ensure that health care provided is of good quality.